We have negotiated with the Government of Mysore and arranged for the purchase of 400 Million Units of power. This has enabled the Government to reduce the cut to 10 per cent in the case of certain continuous process industries, like cement, sugar, aluminium and newspapers and domestic bulk supplies. Additional power was given to many units, engaged in defence production and other vital lines of production. All new industries were given power for the night shift. These exemptions resulted in reducing the effective cut to about 7 per cent.

As a result of the power cut, there has been a fall in production and consequent lay off of the labour in the industry. The fall in production has been estimated at about 5 per cent in the continuous process industries and about 10 to 15 per cent in other industries. But this cannot be attributed solely to the power cut, as there were other factors like the shortage of raw materials, difficulties in foreign exchange and tight money market conditions that affected the industrial production. As regards textiles, the accumulation of stocks was an important factor which, along with the power cut, reduced the production and caused closure of four mills and resulted in the retrenchment of about 350 employees. Actual figures about the short fall in production and retrenchment and lay-off of workers are not available.

This year's power failure has once again pointed out to the need to increase the thermal content of the power grid in the State in the context of the industrial advancement of our State. The Ennore plant and the Kalpakkam plant, the Neyveli Expansion and the Tuticorin thermal plant will, to some extent, meet this imbalance between the hydel and the thermal generations, towards the end of the fourth plan.

IV.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) Nomination to Business Advisory Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 193 (1) of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby nominate the following members to be members of the Business Advisory Committee :—

1. Sri K. Parthasarathy, Deputy Speaker.
2. Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Leader of the House.
3. Hon. Sri V. Ramaiah.
4. Hon. Sri P. Kakkan.
5. Sri P. Ramachandran, Government Whip.
6. Sri V. R. Nedunchezhian.
7. Sri Saw. Ganesan.
8. Sri M. Kalyanasundaram.
9. Sri K. R. Nallasivam.
10. Sri T. P. Elumalai.

The Speaker is the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee.